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- (c) Ensuring competent and safe operations;
- (d) Avoiding undue speculation;
- (e) Avoiding unnecessary delays in exploration, development, and production;
- (f) Discovering and recovering oil and gas;
- (g) Developing new oil and gas resources in an efficient and timely manner;
- (h) Limiting the administrative burdens on Government and industry; and
- (i) Providing an opportunity to experiment with various bidding systems to enable us to identify those most appropriate for the satisfaction of the objectives of the United States in OCS lease sales.

Subpart C [Reserved]

Subpart D—Joint Bidding

§ 560.301 What is the purpose of this subpart?

The purpose of this subpart is to encourage participation in OCS oil and gas lease sales by limiting the requirement for filing “Statements of Production” to certain joint bidders.

§ 560.302 What definitions apply to this subpart?

For the purposes of this subpart, all terms used are defined as in 30 CFR 556.40.

§ 560.303 What are the joint bidding requirements?

(a) You must file a Statement of Production with the Director, according to the requirements of §§ 556.38 through 556.44 if:

- (1) You submit a joint bid for any OCS oil and gas lease during a 6-month bidding period; and
- (2) You were chargeable for the prior production period with an average daily production from all sources in excess of 1.6 million barrels of crude oil, natural gas equivalents, and liquefied petroleum products.

(b) The Statement of Production that you file under paragraph (a) of this section must state that you are chargeable for the prior production period with an average daily production in ex-

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cess of the quantities listed in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) If your average daily production in the prior production period met or exceeded the quantities specified in paragraph (a) of this section, you may not submit a joint bid for any OCS oil and gas lease during the applicable 6-month bidding period with any other person similarly chargeable. We will disqualify and reject these bids.

(d) If your average daily production in the prior production period met or exceeded the quantities specified in paragraph (a) of this section, you may not enter into an agreement prior to a lease sale that would result in two or more persons, similarly chargeable, acquiring or holding any interest in the tract for which the bid is submitted. We will disqualify and reject these bids.

PART 570—NONDISCRIMINATION IN THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

Sec.

- 570.1 Purpose.
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AUTHORITY: 43 U.S.C. 1863.

SOURCE: 76 FR 64623, Oct. 18, 2011, unless otherwise noted.

§ 570.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to implement the provisions of section 604 of the OCSLA of 1978 which provides that “no person shall, on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, or sex, be excluded from receiving or participating in any activity, sale, or employment, conducted pursuant to the provisions of * * * the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.”

§ 570.2 Application of this part.

This part applies to any contract or subcontract entered into by a lessee or by a contractor or subcontractor of a lessee after the effective date of these regulations to provide goods, services, facilities, or property in an amount of \$10,000 or more in connection with any activity related to the exploration for

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or development and production of oil, gas, or other minerals or materials in the OCS under the Act.

§ 570.3 Definitions.

As used in this part, the following terms shall have the following meaning:

Contract means any business agreement or arrangement (in which the parties do not stand in the relationship of employer and employee) between a lessee and any person which creates an obligation to provide goods, services, facilities, or property.

Lessee means the party authorized by a lease, grant of right-of-way, or an approved assignment thereof to explore, develop, produce, or transport oil, gas, or other minerals or materials in the OCS pursuant to the Act and this part.

Person means a person or company, including but not limited to, a corporation, partnership, association, joint stock venture, trust, mutual fund, or any receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, or other official acting in a similar capacity for such company.

Subcontract means any business agreement or arrangement (in which the parties do not stand in the relationship of employer and employee) between a lessee's contractor and any person other than a lessee that is in any way related to the performance of any one or more contracts.

§ 570.4 Discrimination prohibited.

No contract or subcontract to which this part applies shall be denied to or withheld from any person on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, or sex.

§ 570.5 Complaint.

(a) Whenever any person believes that he or she has been denied a contract or subcontract to which this part applies on the grounds of race, creed, color, national origin, or sex, such person may complain of such denial or withholding to the Regional Director of the OCS Region in which such action is alleged to have occurred. Any complaint filed under this part must be submitted in writing to the appropriate Regional Director not later than 180 days after the date of the alleged unlawful denial of a contract or sub-

contract which is the basis of the complaint.

(b) The complaint referred to in paragraph (a) of this section shall be accompanied by such evidence as may be available to a person and which is relevant to the complaint including affidavits and other documents.

(c) Whenever any person files a complaint under this part, the Regional Director with whom such complaint is filed shall give written notice of such filing to all persons cited in the complaint no later than 10 days after receipt of such complaint. Such notice shall include a statement describing the alleged incident of discrimination, including the date and the names of persons involved in it.

§ 570.6 Process.

Whenever a Regional Director determines on the basis of any information, including that which may be obtained under § 570.5 of this part, that a violation of or failure to comply with any provision of this subpart probably occurred, the Regional Director shall undertake to afford the complainant and the person(s) alleged to have violated the provisions of this part an opportunity to engage in informal consultations, meetings, or any other form of communications for the purpose of resolving the complaint. In the event such communications or consultations result in a mutually satisfactory resolution of the complaint, the complainant and all persons cited in the complaint shall notify the Regional Director in writing of their agreement to such resolution. If either the complainant or the person(s) alleged to have wrongfully discriminated fail to provide such written notice within a reasonable period of time, the Regional Director must proceed in accordance with the provisions of 30 CFR part 550, subpart N.

§ 570.7 Remedies.

In addition to the penalties available under 30 CFR part 550, subpart N, the Director may invoke any other remedies available to him or her under the Act or regulations for the lessee's failure to comply with provisions of the Act, regulations, or lease.